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WEARDALE

Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1954.

Lintons, Printers, Crook

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WEARDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1954

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954:—

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions:

Area of District	...	...	99,652 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of population	...	...	9,100
Number of inhabited houses at end of year	...	...	3,088
Rateable Value	...	...	£62,285
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£211, 0 0

Employment

The employment level in the Weardale area during the year 1954 remained at a high level, the majority of people being employed at the Wolsingham Steel Factory, the mining of fluorspar and the quarrying of limestone and ganister.

Limestone is quarried at Stanhope, Frosterley, Eastgate and Westgate and the ganister is quarried at Weatherhill, Stanhope and Harthope. Mineral transport by road has increased considerably over the past few years.

The development of fluorspar mining continues to be produced, by burning and crushing, at the Dene, Stanhope and at Broadwood, Frosterley.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

There were 110 total births (alive and still) :—

Live Births	...	109
Still Births	...	1
		<hr/>
		110
		<hr/>

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female
Legitimate	52	56
Illegitimate	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	53	57
	<hr/>	<hr/>

STILL BIRTHS

There was one still birth.

On an estimated population of 9,100 these figures give the following rates per 1,000 population :—

Total Births	...	...	12.08
Live Births	...	...	11.98
Still Births	...	...	.109
Still Births (per 1,000)		...	9.09

The rates for England and Wales were :—

Live Births	...	...	15.2
Still Births (per 1,000 births)		...	23.5

The birth rate for the Area has risen slightly, being 11.08 in 1953.

DEATHS

The number of deaths registered as pertaining to this district were:—

Males	... 76
Females	... 73
	<hr/>
	149
	<hr/>

These figures give a total death rate per 1,000 population of 16.37 compared with 13.3 for the year 1953. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.3 per 1,000 population.

MATERNAL DEATHS

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

INFANTILE DEATHS (under 1 year)

Infant Mortality rate was 18.1 per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales is 25.4 a decrease of 1.4 on the previous year.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under 4 weeks	1
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DEATHS FROM CANCER

These numbered 26, which represents 17.6 per cent of all deaths and a cancer rate of 2.8 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS FROM MEASLES	Nil
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DEATHS FROM WHOOPING COUGH	Nil
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DEATHS FROM ENTERITIS AND DIARRHOEA	Nil
(under 2 years)	

CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES OF DEATH				Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	..	76	73
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	0	1
2	Tuberculosis Other	..	...	0	0
3	Syphilitic Diseases...	...	...	0	0
4	Diphtheria	...	...	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	0	0
8	Measles	...	...	0	0
9	Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	...	...	0	0
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	0	1
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	6	1
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	0	1
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	0	0
14	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	10	7
15	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	...	...	1	0
16	Diabetes	...	...	0	1
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	10	15
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	14	8
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	2	1
20	Other Heart Diseases	...	...	7	13
21	Other circulatory Diseases	...	...	2	4
22	Influenza	..	...	0	0
23	Pneumonia	...	...	6	0
24	Bronchitis	...	...	2	3
25	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	...	...	0	0
26	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	...	...	1	0
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	...	...	0	0
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	2	0
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	0	0
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	0	0
31	Congenital Malformations	...	...	0	0
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	8	13
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	3	0
34	All Other Accidents	...	...	0	3
35	Suicide	...	...	2	1
36	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	0	0
Total				76	73

Appended are the birth rates and death rates for the preceding seven years:—

	Birthrate	Deathrate
1947	17.3	14.1
1948	12.8	12.3
1949	14.06	12.4
1950	13.1	15.05
1951	12.2	18.03
1952	10.88	13.73
1953	11.08	13.83
1954	12.08	16.37

Out of the 149 total deaths, 83 were people aged 70 and over and of these 30 were aged 80 and over

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL.

Medical Officer of Health (part time)

G. A. MACGREGOR, M.D., D.P.H. (From 1/12/54)

DONALD THOMSON, O.B.E., M.B. (To 30/11/54)

Tuberculosis Medical Officer	} Under Regional Hospital Board
Veneral Diseases Medical Officer	

Obstetric Consultants	} County Council Under Durham
School Medical Officer	
Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer	

OTHERS

Sanitary Inspector

R. G. SUDDICK, Cert. R.S.I., Lond., (whole time)

Veterinary Surgeon

Under Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Public Analyst	} Under Durham County Council
Health Visitor	

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations of sputum, throat swabs and blood for diagnosis of Tuberculosis, Diphtheria and Typhoid-Fever are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories, Ponteland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 5. In addition, other examinations are carried out when necessary, e.g., Examinations of urine and faeces and virulence tests.

Every practitioner in the District can make use of these facilities and a copy of every report is sent to the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year 69 such examinations were carried out.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The greater part of the district is served through the Ambulance Control Office, Bishop Auckland (Tel. No. Bishop Auckland 810). Two Ambulance Cars are stationed at St. John's Chapel.

The villages of Hunstanworth and Edmundbyers are served from the Ambulance Control Office at Consett (Tel. No. Consett 411).

At Wolsingham the Wolsingham Steel Company still retain their own ambulance car for the use of their employees and dependents.

NURSING IN THE HOME

The whole of the Area, with the exception of Stanhope and the sparsely inhabited neighbourhood of Hunstanworth, is provided with district Nurse-Midwives working under local Nursing Associations. These are all affiliated to and subsidised by the Durham County Nursing Association. At Stanhope the general nursing is done by a district nurse who is not maternity trained. Maternity cases are attended by the County Council Midwife stationed at Frosterley.

At Hunstanworth, a local Association subscribes to the neighbouring association in Northumberland and thus have the services of Caterway Heads Nurse Midwife when required.

TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare centres are in operation at Wolsingham, Stanhope and St. John's Chapel. A Venereal Diseases Clinic at Durham and a Tuberculosis Clinic at Bishop Auckland are available for the District. These are all under County Council Control.

HOSPITALS

There is no general hospital in the district.

The district is now served largely by the General Hospitals at Bishop Auckland and Shotley Bridge.

Special cases are sent to the Royal Victoria Infirmary and the General Hospital at Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dryburn Hospital and Durham County Hospital in Durham City.

Cases of Infectious Disease are removed to Tindale Crescent Hospital in Bishop Auckland.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances and General Provision of Health Services in the Area

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supplies in that part of the Council's Area served by the Weardale Rural District Council, were well maintained throughout the year. The supplies from the springs were fairly constant owing to the comparatively wet summer months and no serious shortage arose.

The following works on mains were carried out:—

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| Crawleyside | - | Renewal of main at Field Head
a distance of approximately 350
yards - in 2ins asbestos cement
pipes. |
| Stanhope | - | Renewal of main in 3ins asbestos
cement pipes - a distance of
approximately 80 yards. |

Further interviews and consultations with the Council's consumers and at the end of the year 173 meters had been fixed.

SEWERAGE DRAINAGE

The cleaning of filtration areas on the various sewage works was carried out.

Further interviews and consultations with the Council's Consulting Engineer, regarding the submission of schemes for Sewerage and Sewage Disposal under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944, were held.

Consultations and inspections were carried out in conjunction with the Inspector of the Wear and Tees River Board.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Ten applicants took advantage of the Council's scheme, allowing a grant up to a maximum of £12 for converting closets to the water carriage system, 10 dry closets were so converted.

The closets of each type at the end of the year were:—

Water Closets	...	1835
Ashclosets	...	777
Ashpit-Privies	...	240

PUBLIC CLEANSING

No extension to the area covered by the services were made, but with the additional vehicle brought into service last year, a slightly more frequent refuse collection resulted.

The estimated weight of refuse removed during the year was 4,749 tons and the mileage covered by the vehicles was 20,046. The total cost of the Cleansing Service during the year was £5,767.

Refuse was disposed of at the main tip at Frosterley and also at Cowhill, Rookhope, Edmundbyers, Crawleyside and Tow Law.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACTS

The whole time Rodent Operator was engaged on the systematic treatment of dwellings, business premises and farms, refuse tips and sewer fields, during the year.

Summary of treatment for the year:—

	No. of baiting points	No. of baiting points where poison taken
Houses and Business Premises	1675	633
Refuse Tips	339	210
Sewer Fields	180	72

SHOPS ACT - (Ventilation and Temperature)

Inspections were carried out and no formal action was found necessary.

ICE CREAM REGULATIONS

Inspections were carried out in connection with the registration of premises for the sale of ice-cream. One application for the sale of manufactured ice-cream was received and granted.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The district has few industries of the type usually associated with smoke nuisance. Inspections were carried out and no formal action was taken.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Nature of Inspection	No.	Notices		Complied with
		Informal	Formal	
Infectious Diseases	5	0	0	0
Disinfection	8	0	0	0
Dwellings	113	4	0	4
Nuisances	29	2	2	2
Sanitary Accommodation	61	2	0	2
Water Supply	32	0	0	0
House Drainage	27	2	0	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Following the de-control of slaughtering facilities, inspections were carried out in connection with the applications received for the licensing of slaughter houses within the district.

Lists of works required to bring certain of the premises up to the standard required were issued and were carried out.

Visits have been carried out to shops and stores in the district.

Food was condemned as unfit for sale on 10 instances - in each case the food was surrendered voluntarily.

Inspections were also carried out in connection with a newly opened snack bar at Wolsingham and also of the five bake-houses in the district. No formal action was necessary.

FACTORIES ACTS

Inspections were carried out under the Factories Acts and no formal action was taken.

SECTION D.**HOUSING****(a) By Contract**

30 traditional type houses, were completed and occupied during the year, as follows:—

Wolsingham	...	...	4
Stanhope	...	...	26
8 Houses were also under course of construction:—			
Stanhope	...	...	8

(b) By Direct Labour

The Council did not undertake the erection of any new houses by direct labour during the year but work of improvements and repairs to the cottages at Cross Hill, Chapel Street and Cowgarth Hill, Stanhope, were completed.

Works on site preparation by the construction of roads and sewers was further advanced at Wolsingham and Stanhope.

The total number of houses erected under the Council's housing programme since the year 1946 to 31st December, 1954 is 335.

(c) By Private Enterprise

Five new houses were erected (1 at Stanhope, 3 at Wolsingham and 1 at St. John's Chapel) and five houses were in course of erection (2 at Wolsingham, 1 at Stanhope and 2 at Wearhead).

SECTION E.**Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Disease**

I received 134 notifications during the year, these were as follows:—

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	8	3	0
Pneumonia	7	1	3
Measles	56	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	57	0	0
Tuberculosis	5	0	0
	<hr/> 134 <hr/>	<hr/> 4 <hr/>	<hr/> 0 <hr/>

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year. The number of cases of measles and whooping cough (56 and 57 respectively) was less than the total cases notified for the preceding year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 1 year		-	-	-		-	-	-
1 to 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 14 years	-	.	-	-		-	-	-
15 to 24 years	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
25 to 34 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 44 years	-	-	-	.	-	-	-	-
45 to 54 years	1		-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 64 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
66 and over	-	-	1	.	-	-	-	-
Total ...	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1952, which came into force on the 1st May, 1952, it is no longer required for the register of notifications to be kept, but this has been maintained for information and from the records the number of cases at the end of the year was as follows:—

	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
Males	44	25
Females	42	26
	—	—
	86	51
	—	—

There was one death from Tuberculosis during the year.

Four other cases were added to the Register being transfers from other districts. Eleven cases were removed, six having left the district, four (3 Respiratory and 1 Non-Respiratory) having been notified as recovered and one other case having died.

I am,

Yours obediently,

G. A. MACGREGOR.

